GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2121
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2003
EMPLOYEES UNDER BGML
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the workers, who have not been paid any salary since the closure of Bharat Gold Mines in Kolar Gold fields, Karnataka in March, 2001;

(b) whether the Government have drawn any package for these workers, majority of whom belong to SC/ ST;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to give the workers an ex-gratia amount as an interim measure in order to enable them to seek alternative employment?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) The operations of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) stands closed from 1.3.2001 as per the closure order passed by the Ministry of Labour. The number of employees on the date of closure was 3580 out of which 493 have taken advantage of a special scheme for voluntary retirement which was offered from time to time after the closure. Since, the company stood closed the erstwhile employees of the company are not entitled for any salary after 1.3.2001.

(b to e) The workers of a closed unit are only entitled to retrenchment benefits as per the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.However, Government approved a Special Terminal Benefit Package (STBP) for BGML employees, which is much higher than the retrenchment benefits. This STBP was opened by the Government for a period of one month initially with effect from 10.10.2002, which allowed the erstwhile employees an option to choose either the Heavy Industry Package or Gujarat Package of voluntary separation. Again the STBP was opened for a period of one month with effect from 20.12.2002. The employees opting for STBP were also offered hutments at reasonable price. Ad-hoc interim payments have also been made to ex-employees of BGML from time to time amounting to an average of Rs.19000/- per employee, which includes a payment of Rs.5000/- in the month of October, 2003.